found to be irregular or shown to be irregular, then of course a tirade will be right. These are some general considerations which struck me in the course of some of the representations.

You have tried very laudably to travel over the whole field of administration. I am sorry to say that you have not taken proper occasion to explain the suggestions that have been made. I am glad that those suggestions are here for the consideration of Government, but if you think that there is any useful addition to the suggestions or any explanation for them that you can make, I shall be glad to have them.

All your suggestions will be considered.

191. Responsible Government.

MR. K. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Kalkulam taluk, Group I*) said that Travancore Sovereigns were constitutional Rulers, the administration being carried on by the Dewan, the Sovereign seldom interfering. The Dewan was the practical Ruler. The Government had no fixed policy; it was changing with the change in the Dewanship.

The member said that the Government had no fixed policy of administration. For instance, the Education Department, which consumed 20·12 per cent. of the annual income of the State, served only to produce an army of young men fit only to be clerks. The policy of the Government in the matter should change. Illiteracy must be dispelled from the State. The youths who got out of colleges and schools should be fully equipped to earn their living. The department should work with some such fixed policy. Again, with regard to the Excise policy, the Government preached one thing and prastised another. The Government had made some reduction in the number of arrack and toddy shops, but the actual quantity of arrack consumed during the year was far greater than in previous years, and the number of palm trees licensed for tapping was also much higher. The Agricultural Department was a quarter of a century old and yet it had not got out of the experimental stage. The agricultural policy of the Government should be to make the State self-sufficient in its agricultural produce. The Industries Department would also never out-grow its experimental stage. The department served no useful purpose and the sooner it was abolished the better. Again taking the Huzur Cutcherry, no work was done there. The files were piled up in large bundles. Letters addressed to the Dewan were not replied to; the petitions presented were treated with indifference and representations by responsible individuals on grave and important matters received little consideration at the hands of the Dewan. Solemn promises made by the Dewan to deputations were lightly treated. In the legislative Council, the Dewan President was an autocrat. He spent money as he pleased and framed laws as he fancied. He answered interpellations as it suited his whims.

All this was due to "one man rule". In all civilised countries, the Government was responsible to the people, and whenever the people

expressed their want of confidence in the administration, the Government resigned from office. But in Travancore, if the Legislative Council or even if the whole public were to pass a "no confidence" motion against the Dewan, he could treat it with utter contempt, because he was not responsible to the people. The system of "one man rule" should be done away with and a Government by a body of people, called by the name of Cabinet or Executive Council, responsible to the people, should be introduced. There should be distribution of work among the various members of the Cabinet, who should follow a course of definite policy.

The member next said that corruption in all hideous forms was rampant in Travancore. Of all the forms of corruption in existence, bribery was the worst and it was very common now among both the high and low officers. It was a blot on the administration of the State. Nothing was more unsafe and dangerous than allowing officers to take bribes. It had to be inferred from the conduct of the present Government that they encouraged bribery. When in the Legislative Council a member said that a certain Police officer received bribes, the Government allowed the member to be prosecuted by the officer concerned. This was not at all proper. The Government should have made a thorough enquiry into the matter themselves to find out the truth. In law, both the receiver and the giver of illegal gratification were punishable. Hence it was difficult to get proof of bribery. In this connection the member suggested that if the Government were sincere in their aim to find out corrupt officers, they should entrust him with some money and depute two honest officers with him and that he would approach the bribe-takers and bribe them in the presence of the Government agents and thus get a good haul of bribe-takers. If the Government really wanted that corruption should be rooted out, they should adopt some such methods as mentioned above instead of allowing to be prosecuted the man who said that there was corruption. But the Government were indifferent in the matter, they were even encouraging corruption. The Padmanabhapuram Municipal election muddle was an instance to prove this. The Government's attitude in not pursuing the enquiry into the conduct of the acting President of the Municipal Council, Mr. John Hilkya, in regard to the disappearance of the original list of nominations, for election to the Presidentship, was suspicious, especially in view of the original decision of the Government to conduct a thorough enquiry into the matter.

The member concluded by saying that it was highly necessary to introduce some reform or means to put down corruption in the State. This subject had been repeatedly represented in the previous sessions of the Assembly, but without any result.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, about the last point referred to by you my statement made last year is very clear that the Government is prepared to act not only on evidence which will stand in a court of law, but on evidence, even circumstantial evidence, sufficient to raise a moral certainty that a man

is really guilty before he is sent out of service. It may not be expedient to act on suspicion. If you remember cases in history, periods when the system of spying was in vogue, you may also remember the large number of innocent victims who were made to suffer on account of what was called secret evidence. Government should see that an honest officer is not hounded out of service by a combination of persons who in the security of secret information may prop up charges against him and make statements which perhaps cannot be really sifted for truth. Subject to these limitations, Government are always prepared to take action against any officer who is found to be corrupt. That is a statement which I made last year and also this year in the course of the replies.

As regards the first point of your representation, I shall answer after hearing other members.

192. Responsible Government.

MR. R. S. SUBRAMONIA PILLAI (*Kalkulam taluk, Group II*) said at the outset that he did not agree with those who demanded the immediate establishment of Responsible Government in the State, nor could he join the ranks of those who considered that the formation of a Cabinet of ministers consisting of officials and non-officials or the establishment of an Executive Council responsible to the legislature, would be a blessing to this small State and be a remedy for all its ills, political or otherwise, for all time to come. A careful examination of the political, social and economic conditions obtaining at present in the country, with the numerous communities quarrelling among themselves in the scramble for the loaves and fishes of offices, the present economic depression and the ever present spectre of unemployment of educated men and women should dissuade one from demanding any unnecessary, unsuitable or complex additions being foisted on the existing Governmental machinery. At this juncture, when the financial strain was so very keenly felt and when efforts were being made to effect retrenchments in the salaries of high officers, it would be unwise to plead for the establishment and the consequent multiplication of the number of high officers, who, however, were not at all needed for the efficient working of the Government. It was possible, even with the existing Governmental machinery, to attain responsible Government in the fulness of time. The Government had only to see that nothing impeded the natural growth of responsible Government in the State.

One of the factors which was likely to be a bar to the attainment of responsible Government was the anomaly that existed in regard to recruitment to public service. In the scramble for appointments and promotions in public service, the ill-feeling of community against community manifested itself in the bitterest form. It was true that the position of the Government as the arbiter of the several warring communities was a delicate one indeed and that they were attempting to tackle the problem as satisfactorily as possible. It was an admitted fact that the principle of representation in public service on communal basis was calculated to exert a baneful influence on the services with